

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03454 152050Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 152015Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8469

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3454

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJ: SANTIAGO CURFEW REDUCED

1. LOCAL MILITARY ZONE COMMANDER, GENERAL ROLANDO GARAY, HAS SET NEW TIMES FOR CAPITAL'S CURFEW. BEGINNING APRIL 15, CURFEW IN SANTIAGO AND ADJACENT PROVINCE OF SAN ANTONIO WILL RUN FROM 0200-0530 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, AND FROM 0300-0530 ON SUNDAY MORNING. DECISION REDUCES CURFEW BY ONE HOUR DURING WEEK AND HOUR ON SUNDAY.
2. EMERGENCY LAWS AUTHORIZE EACH ZONE COMMANDER TO FIX HOURS OF CURFEW IN HIS AREA. WITH THIRD OF POPULATION, SANTIAGO AREA ESTABLISHES GENERAL PATTERN FOR REST OF COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH ENFORCEMENT TENDS TO BE MORE LAX OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN REGION.
3. SHORTLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 1973 COUP CURFEW WAS LOWERED TO APPROXIMATELY FIVE EARLY MORNING HOURS. BASIC SANTIAGO CURFEW OF 0100-0530 SUBJECT TO FREQUENT EXCEPTIONS FOR HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS. WEEKEND CURFEW BEGAN AT 0200 AND ON CERTAIN DAYS STARTED AT 0300.
4. COMMENT: SANTIAGO'S CURFEW HAS COME TO BE SEEN AS BAROMETER OF GOC'S PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL SECURITY. WHILE ANOTHER SALAMI SLICE FROM ALREADY INNOCUOUS CURFEW HAS LITTLE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE, GOVERNMENT CLEARLY INTENDS MEASURE AS SIGNAL OF RELAXATION FOR DOMESTIC AND

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INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES. BECAUSE OF ITS SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE,

ELIMINATION OF CURFEW WOULD APPEAR LOGICAL STEP FOR GOC TO
TAKE PRIOR TO OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE. TODAY'S
ACTION MAY PAVE THE WAY.
BOYATT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CURFEW, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA03454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760144-0859
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760457/aaaabwkz.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SANTIAGO CURFEW REDUCED
TAGS: PINT, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006